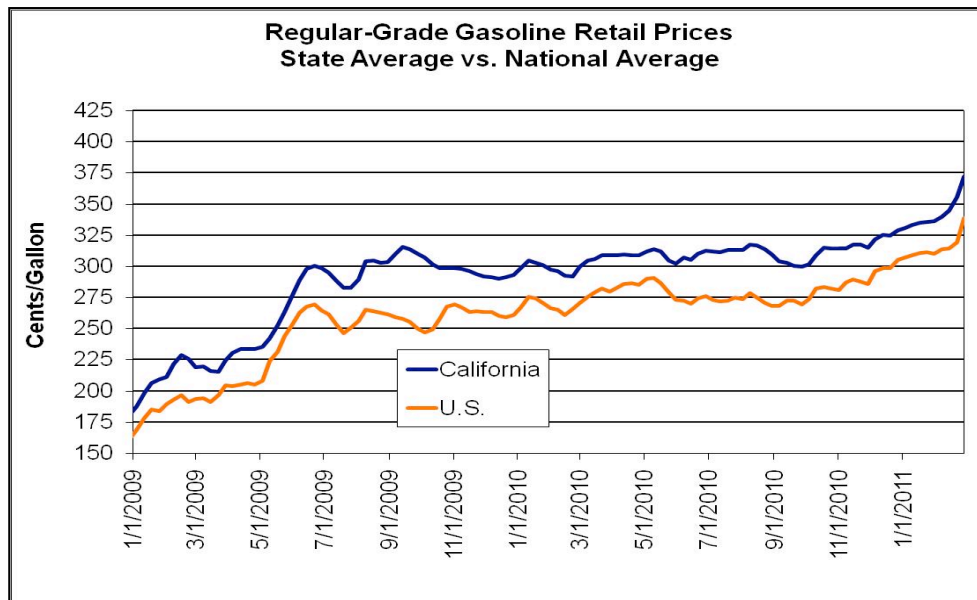
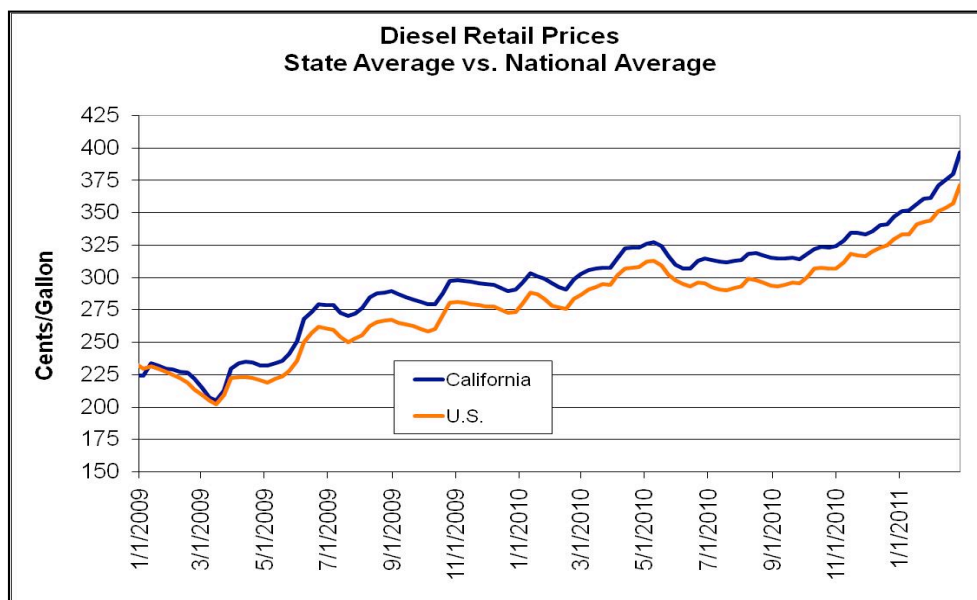


Retail Gasoline and Diesel Prices on February 28

- The average California **retail price for regular-grade gasoline** increased 16 cents from last week, rising to \$3.72 per gallon. Prices are 72 cents higher than this time last year and 36 cents higher than a month ago.¹
- The difference between California and U.S. retail gasoline increased 8 cents since last month to 34 cents per gallon. U.S. gasoline prices increased 28 cents since last month to \$3.38 and are 68 cents more than this time last year.

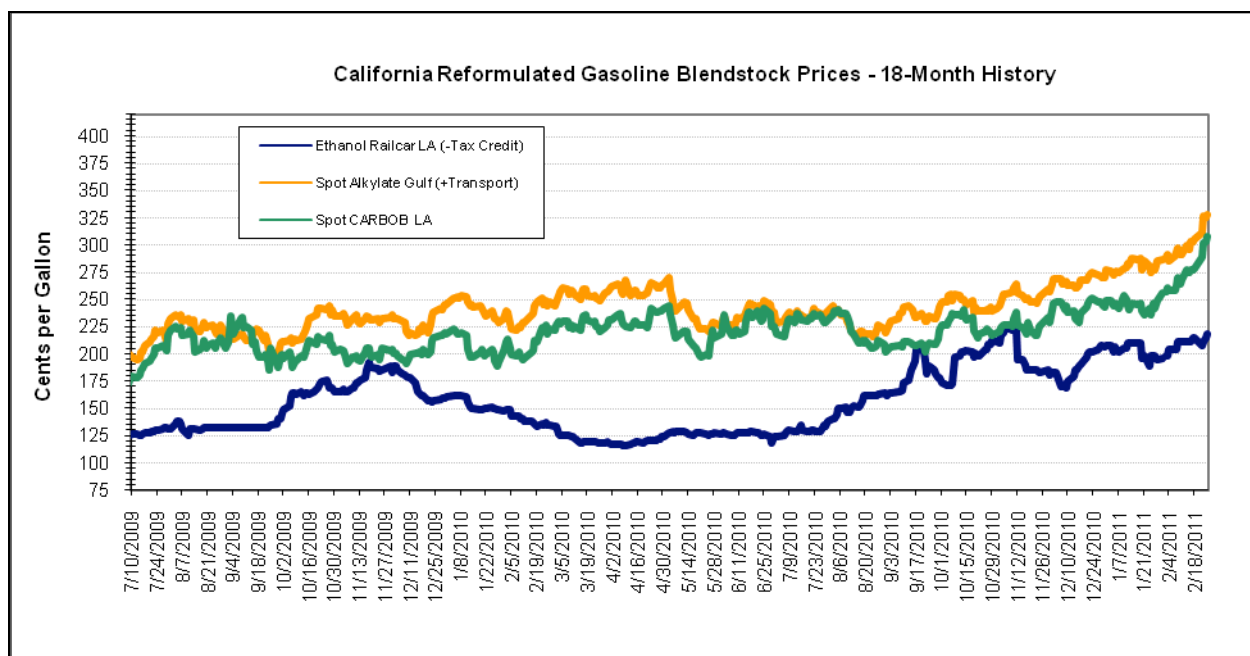


- The average California **retail diesel price** increased 35 cents since last month to \$3.96 per gallon. The U.S. retail diesel price increased 28 cents from a month ago to \$3.72 per gallon.



Wholesale Gasoline and Blendstock Prices on March 1

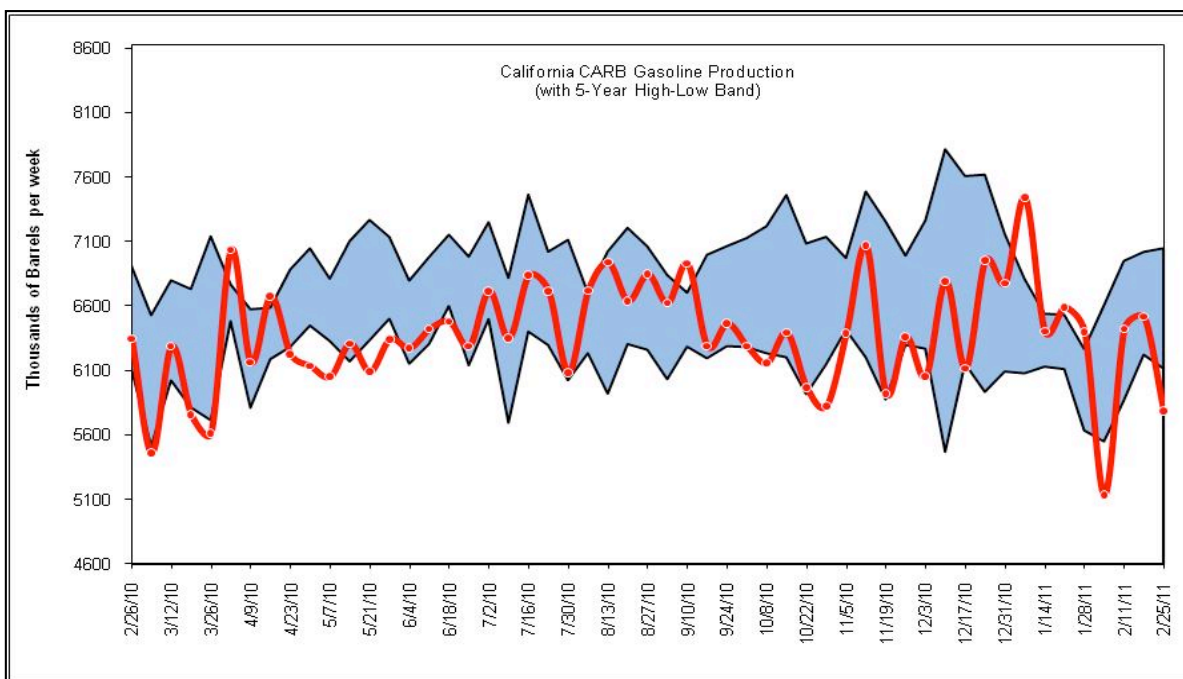
- California **spot wholesale gasoline prices** for regular-grade reformulated blendstock for oxygenate blending (RBOB) rose to \$3.04, 48 cents per gallon more than a month ago and 81 cents more than the same time last year.²
- Spot prices for RBOB in Los Angeles are 22 cents per gallon more than New York Harbor.
- California **spot wholesale prices for fuel ethanol** rose 23 cents from last month to \$2.18 per gallon.³



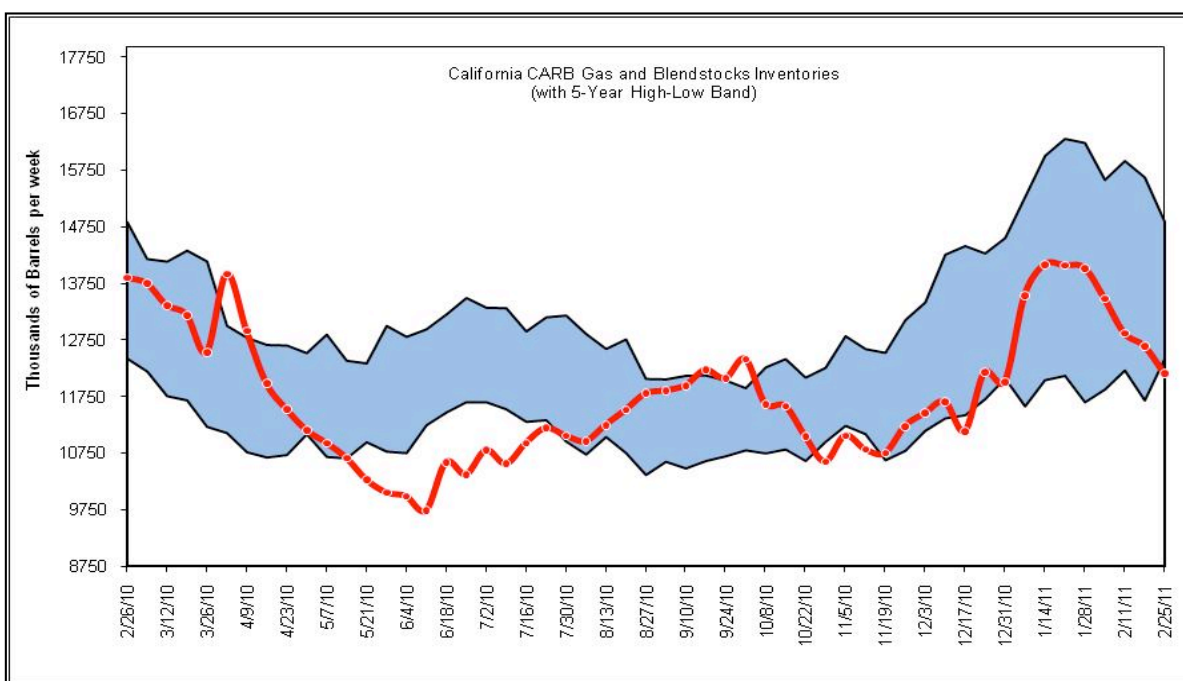
- The Energy Information Administration's (EIA) weekly report for the week ending February 25 shows that **U.S. gasoline demand** increased 0.7 percent and distillate demand increased 1.2 percent from the previous week. The four-week average demand for gasoline is 8.9 million barrels per day, an increase of 1.0 percent from the four-week average at the same time last year. The four-week average for U.S. distillate demand is 3.8 million barrels per day, 0.3 percent more than the same period last year.

Refinery Production and Inventories

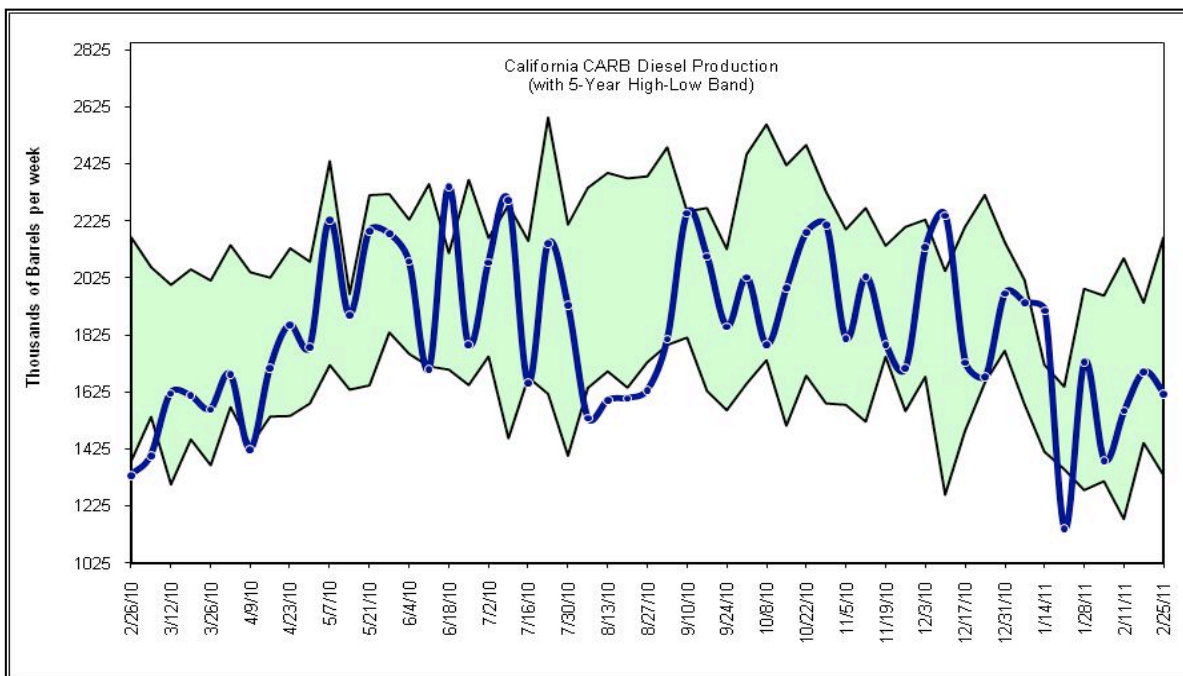
- **Reformulated gasoline production** in California for the week ending February 25 decreased 11.2 percent from the previous week to 5.78 million barrels, falling below the five-year range and is 8.9 percent lower than a year ago.⁴



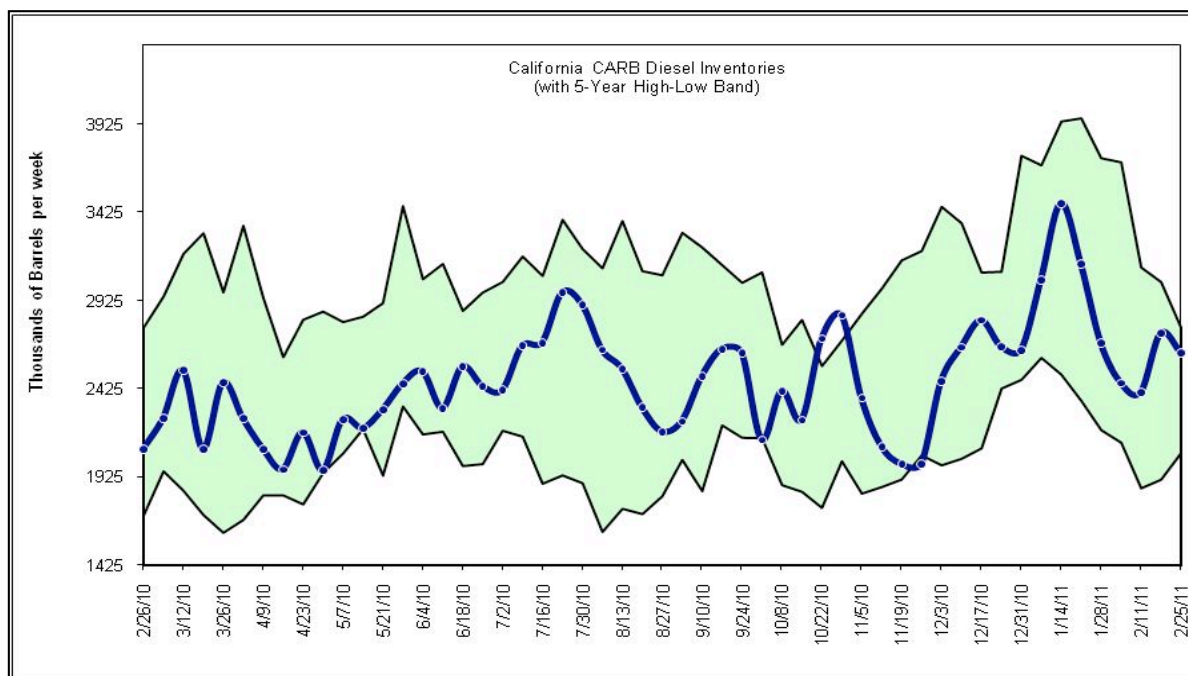
- California **reformulated gasoline inventories** decreased 4.2 percent from last week, while gasoline blendstock inventories decreased 3.4 percent. Combined inventories of reformulated gasoline and gasoline blendstocks in the state decreased 3.8 percent to 12.38 million barrels and fell below the five-year range.



- U.S. gasoline inventories as of February 25 decreased to 234.7 million barrels, 3.6 million barrels less than the previous week. Inventories decreased on the East, West, and Gulf Coasts.
- California-compliant **ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel (CARB diesel) production**⁵ was 1.62 million barrels during the week ending on February 25, a decrease of 4.5 percent from the previous week, remaining in the middle of the five-year range.

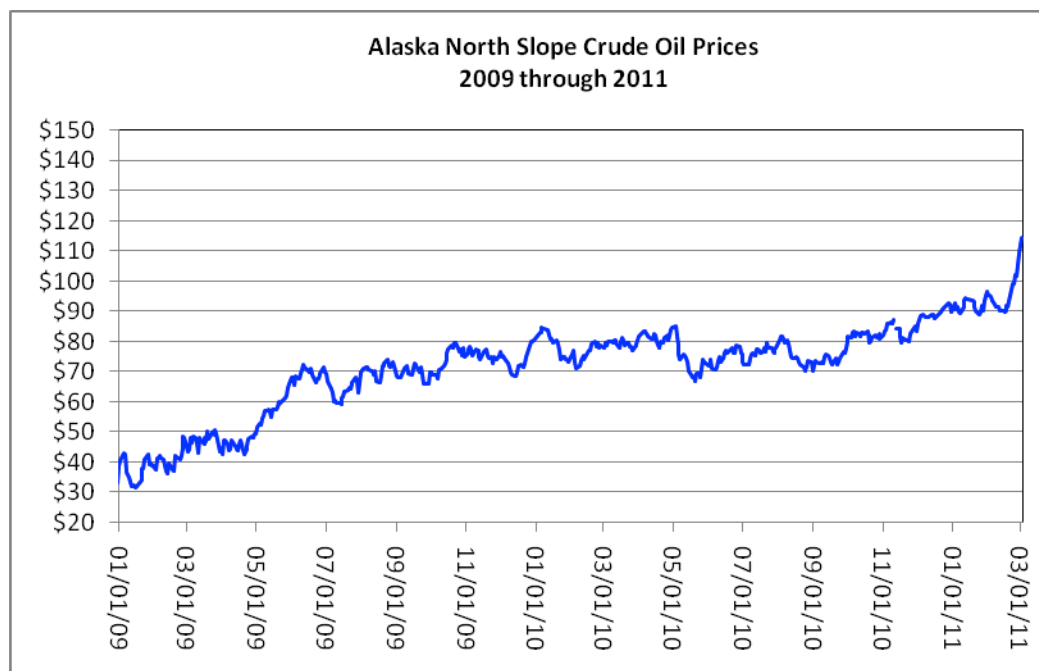


- **Inventories of CARB diesel** in California decreased 4 percent from the previous week to 2.63 million barrels, but remain near the top of the five-year range. Total U.S. distillate inventories as of February 25 fell to 159.2 million barrels, 751,000 barrels less than the previous week. Inventories decreased on the Gulf, East, and West Coasts.



Crude Oil Prices and Inventories

- West Coast prices for Alaska North Slope (ANS) crude oil, an important refinery feedstock for California, increased to \$114.58 as of March 2, a high last seen on September 22, 2008. Overall, prices increased \$19.17 since last month and are \$35.65 higher than a year ago.⁶ Violence and reduced oil production of up to one million barrels per day in Libya, political unrest elsewhere in the Middle East and Africa, a better than expected U.S. manufacturing report, a decrease in initial weekly jobless claims to a 33-month low of 368,000, and an increase in retail sales pushed prices up. However, continued high unemployment and an 8 percent increase in Saudi Arabian oil production helped restrain price increases.



- U.S. commercial crude oil inventories as of February 25 fell by 364,000 barrels from the previous week to 346.4 million barrels. Crude oil stocks are 4.8 million barrels more than this time last year and 14.8 million barrels more than the five-year average for this date. California crude oil stocks rose 1.1 percent from the previous week to 15.53 million barrels and are 0.7 percent more than last year.

1 Retail gasoline and diesel prices and U.S. crude oil and product inventory estimates are from the Energy Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy.

2 Since the Energy Information Administration is not currently publishing spot prices, the Energy Commission is using data from *The Wall Street Journal's* Market Data for spot wholesale prices. The Energy Commission will reconsider using the Energy Information Administration's wholesale spot gasoline and diesel prices if publication is resumed.

3 Ethanol railcar prices are from Platts Oilgram and are average prices for prompt Southern California shipments minus a 45¢/gal federal excise tax credit for 2009 prices and a 51¢/gal federal excise tax credit for prices prior to 2009. California alkylate prices are also calculated from Platts Oilgram and include a 20¢/gal transportation and distribution cost from Gulf Coast to California. Spot wholesale prices for regular-grade California reformulated gasoline blendstock for oxygenate blending (CARBOB) are from Oil Price Information Service.

4 California refinery production and inventory information is from the Petroleum Industry Information Reporting Act (PIIRA) database maintained by the California Energy Commission.

5 Staff has discontinued the reporting of combined CARB and EPA diesel production and inventories and will report only CARB diesel as of December 2009. EPA diesel is primarily for export from California.

6 ANS crude oil prices are from *The Wall Street Journal*.